

schools. There is no objection whatever, where the local sentiment favors it, for the teacher to read a few verses of the ethical or moral parts of the Bible, so long as this causes no offense to any one. But it is entirely wrong for the law to make this reading compulsory; and the Protestant fanatics who attempt to force this through are playing into the hands of the Catholic fanatics who want to break down the Public School system and introduce a system of sectarian schools. I shall ask you to treat this letter as private, because I have so many fights on my hands that there is no use my going into another; and just at present our people do not wish me to embark on a general course of lectures to them as to what they should do in the public schools."

A letter that lie wrote a few years later, Aug. 28, 1917, to Major Joel E. Spingarn, U. S. E., well-known American scholar and author, gives an entertaining account of his taste in reading:

"I wish to thank you for that volume of capital essays. The two last were especially enjoyed by me because they were more within my very moderate powers of critical appreciation. I know nothing of the drama except that I am ashamed to say I don't care to go to the theater; and nevertheless I do very greatly care to read certain plays in my library. But your two final chapters dealt with matter I *can* fairly well understand, and I agree with every word. Personally, I don't care a rap whether we call the Flight of

a Tartar Tribe, or certain passages in the
Confessions of
an Opium Eater, prose or vers libres. I think
that it might
help the eye to have parts of them arranged
as the Spoon
Eiver Anthology is arranged, in irregular lines.
But in any
event I enjoy what seems to me to be the
rhythm, and the
beauty and majesty of the diction. I enjoy
Wordsworth's.
sonnets and I enjoy Shakespeare's sonnets;
and I don't
care in the least if some one proves to me
that Shake-
speare did not write sonnets but something
else. On the
other hand, I loathe Wordsworth's
Excursion, and not